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Dr. Wm M O'Brien
Dept. Preventive Medicine
University of Virginia
Charlottesville

Dear. Prof. O'Brien

I would be grateful to you for information you may have available
on:

Drug Testing policy dilemmas

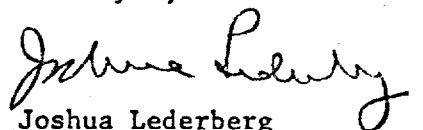
Reprint(s) of your article in BAS; other writings?

(What would be your personal reaction to a scheme that interposed an interval (perhaps indefinite in some cases) during which a new drug could be used only by specialists (Boards?) affiliated with a teaching hospital, and under a legal obligation via that hospital to report adverse reactions and other statistics. For many drugs, a complete double-blind design on a sufficiently large scale is just out of the question, though of course must be applied to the fullest extent possible. As a result, many of our present procedures are quite irrational, and amount to little more than stalling for time -- time during which some further evidence might arise. After all, nothing but that could have been particularly useful in managing thalidomide.)

Can you document the deaths from DMSO?

I certainly agree with your alarms about the immunosuppressives!

Thank you,


Joshua Lederberg

NOTE: I write a weekly column on "Science and Man" for the Washington Post and affiliated newspapers. Your information may be helpful to me in drafting future columns.

Enc: Sam 13, 10, 19;

Wm.
O'BRIEN